



Fact Sheet #1
October 2006

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Holbrook Subdivision Cook County, Illinois

Public Meeting

A public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2006, 2 p.m. at the Bloom Township Center, 425 South Halsted Street, Chicago Heights. Representatives from the Illinois EPA, Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District, the Cook County Department of Public Health and Bloom Township will be present to explain the problem, to seek input from those in attendance and to respond to inquiries.

What is the problem?

Untreated sanitary sewage is entering Butterfield Creek, which flows east into Thorn Creek and then north into the Calumet River. The sewage enters the creek via an old field tile originating or running through the Holbrook Subdivision.

Where is the problem?

The area referred to as the Holbrook Subdivision is located in Bloom Township in Cook County southwest of the intersection of Holbrook Road and Halsted Street (Illinois Route 1). This unincorporated area is bordered by the communities of Chicago Heights, Glenwood and Homewood. The actual sewage discharge point is located north of the Holbrook area in a forested area.

Why is it a problem?

In addition to the obvious esthetic and health concerns, the discharge of untreated sewage into the waters of the state is a violation of state law. Section 12(a) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act states that "No person shall cause or threaten to allow the discharge of any contaminants into the environment in any State so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution in Illinois, either alone or in combination with

Unpermitted Discharge in the Homewood Area



Legend

- Streams
- Streets
- Incorporated Municipalities
 - CHICAGO HTS
 - GLENWOOD
 - HOMEWOOD



Illinois EPA
September, 2006



Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

Office of Community Relations #5
1021 N. Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

October 2006

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matter from other sources, or so as to violate regulations or standards adopted by the Pollution Control Board under this Act.”

What is the source of the problem?

Tests conducted in 2006 by the Cook County Department of Public Health and the Illinois EPA established that field tile in the Holbrook area were the source of the contamination that was found entering Butterfield Creek. The Holbrook area is not currently serviced by any sewage treatment facility. It appears that at least some residences within the Holbrook Subdivision are discharging into the field tile and ultimately Butterfield Creek.

What happens if sewage discharge to Butterfield Creek continues?

The sewage discharge to Butterfield Creek is unlawful, unsafe and must cease. State law allows for the Illinois EPA to prevent such discharges from continuing and to assess fines against those causing, contributing and/or allowing such discharges to occur.

Are there any solutions to the problem?

The Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District, which operates a publicly owned treatment works, has offered to extend sanitary sewer connections into this unincorporated area. Most residents in southern Cook County send their sanitary sewage to a publicly owned treatment works. Such systems usually provide for the most effective and safe treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage.

Who can we contact?

If you have any questions or comments about this site, please contact:

Illinois EPA

General Details

Allen Anderson 847 294 4000

Legal Questions

Chuck Gunnarson 217 782 5544

Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District

General Information

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Cook County Department of Public Health

Thomas Varchmin 708 492 2035

The information contained in this fact sheet is considered accurate as of October 2006. Updates could be included in a subsequent fact sheet.

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